

CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

TOPIC 1. Troops and Military Installations in Torun

2. Polish Security Troops in and around Torun

25X1

3. Military Information from Stettin

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

20 July 1954

25X1

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED

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1. Prior to 21 November 1953, several barracks installations, occupied to capacity by Polish troops, were observed in the area south and southwest of the Torun Mokre railroad station, and on the southeast side of ul. Bohleskiego in Torun (Q 54/J 39). The two barracks installations located near the railroad station quartered soldiers who wore a wide red stripe along the trousers of their dress uniforms. These soldiers were believed to be artillery officer candidates. The strength of the troops quartered at the two installations was estimated at not less than 1,000 men. Guns towed by trucks were frequently observed in the barracks area. Another installation of this complex quartered an artillery unit which included motorized artillery and, to a smaller extent, horse-drawn artillery. This installation quartered an estimated 600 to 700 men. These troops were believed to be instruction troops.
2. Numerous barracks installations were located in the area on both sides of the Torun Miasto (city station) railroad station. The barracks installations west of the railroad line mainly quartered a motorized artillery unit. The occupation of the barracks installations east of the railroad line was undetermined. Prior to November 1953, motorized troops were almost the only troops stationed at Torun.
3. In early November 1953, the former Poniatowskiego Barracks on the western border of the city and north of the thoroughfare to Bydgoszcz (P 54/J 09) quartered Soviet soldiers who wore black epaulets. The installation which included three large quartering buildings was apparently occupied below capacity.
4. Prior to 1953, the cantonment immediately southeast of the suburb of Podgorz, on the southern bank of the Vistula River, mainly quartered Polish artillery units which were rotated there from other stations for firing practices on the artillery range adjoining the installation to the south. Reports of guns were frequently heard from the direction of the artillery range. An extensive tent camp occupied by Polish troops was observed in the wooded area northwest of the railroad line between Podgorz and Gniewkowo, about 7 kilometers southwest of the Podgorz railroad station.

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5. In November 1953, the old fortifications of the city were used for civilian purposes. The former fort south of the Podgorz Piaski freight yard and west of the Torun radio station housed a cheese factory. Other sections of the fortress were used as apartments for civilians. The former Zymirskiego Barracks on the west side of ul. Kosciuszki, just south of the freight yard, was being torn down. In June 1953, an order to report for registration at an office located at the intersection of Sikorskiego and ul. 3-go Maja, was issued to individuals in Torun. The registration was held in a large building on the south side of Al. Stalina, formerly Bydgoska, prior to mid-July 1953. A UB (Security Police) command headquarters was located just west of this registration office.
6. In January 1954, no Polish or Soviet Army troops were stationed at Kreuzburg (P 51/T 05). The former Dragoon Kaserne, which was constructed prior to World War I, housed an MO (Militia) office, a UB (Security Police) office, and a KBW (Internal Security) detachment. The barracks installation which was located on the eastern border of the town and on the north side of the road to Ober Ellguth (P 51/T 05), west of the Ellguth castle, included one large four-story barrack and a number of secondary structures some of which had been reconstructed. The former riding-hall of the installation housed the KBW detachment and a KBW ration supply depot. The mission of the KBW detachment was believed to be the guarding of a Soviet telephone line.
7. The Soviet overhead telephone line led from Breslau via Oels, Bernstadt, Namslau, Konstadt, Kreuzburg, Rosenberg to the east. In the spring of 1953, the responsibility of guarding this line on the section from Oels to the east was taken over by KBW personnel. Prior to that time, it had been guarded by Soviet soldiers. KBW detachments similar to the detachment located in Kreuzburg were also stationed at Konstadt and Rosenberg. These detachments received their ration supplies from Kreuzburg. 25X1
8. On 8 and 9 June 1954, Polish soldiers, who wore red cap bands, were only seldom observed in the streets of Stettin. On 9 June 1954, empty army truck crossed the bridge over the Oder River and went toward the port. From 2200 to 2230, only some windows in the barracks installations on Al. Wojska Polskiego were lighted.
1. Comment. The artillery training center in Torun is confirmed until November 1953. 25X1
2. Comment. Previous reports indicate that the 13th Arty Brig was also stationed in Torun. Although it is unknown if this brigade still exists, it is clear that independent artillery units of the 2d Military District in Bydgoszcz are stationed in the city. An artillery range, which was used prior to World War II, is located close to Torun. 25X1
3. Comment. It is believed that this KBW detachment belongs to the KBW Brigade in Katowice. The guarding of Soviet telephone lines by KBWs is reported for the first time. 25X1